

OCTOBER 2005

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NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK FIRE STATION OPEN HOUSE

THE CITY'S SIX FIRE STATIONS CELEBRATE National Fire Prevention Week with an open house on **Saturday, October 15, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Fire, Police and Public Works staff will be on hand, along with lots of activities, demonstrations and tours. Free t-shirts and temporary tattoos will be available for kids. For more information, call 952-563-4801.

Visit your local fire station
Saturday, October 15
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

STATION NO.	ADDRESS
1	10 W. 95th St.
2	10601 Xerxes Ave. S.
3	2050 E. 86th St.
4	4201 W. 84th St.
5	10540 Bush Lake Road
6	8601 Lakeview Road

PREPARING FOR WINTER CHIMNEY FIRE PREVENTION TIPS

CREOSOTE IS AN UNAVOIDABLE BY-product of burning wood in stoves and fireplaces. This combustible substance builds up in connectors and chimney flues to create a situation that may cause a chimney fire. The use of dry, seasoned firewood assists in reducing creosote but does not guarantee that creosote will not accumulate.

Before using your fireplace or wood-burning stove this winter, have your chimney vents inspected and cleaned by a professional chimney sweep. While fireplace logs that purport to clean chimneys might seem like an easy solution, tests have proven they are not effective. For more information, call Fire Marshal Robert James at 952-563-8933.



A BLOOMINGTON TREASURE ENJOY NINE MILE CREEK'S FALL BEAUTY

THOUGH IT IS ACTUALLY 15 MILES LONG, NINE MILE CREEK GOT ITS NAME from Army Cavalry based at Fort Snelling who traveled Old Shakopee Trail. Traveling to the Village of Chief Shakopee, the creek crossed Old Shakopee Trail nine miles from the fort. It was a natural spot to take a break and water the horses. Home to a variety of wildlife and vegetation, Nine Mile Creek is still a great place to take in the beauty of fall.

Enjoy a leisurely walk along the paved trail between Moir Park, located at 104th Street and Morgan Avenue South, to the 106th Street Bridge. Over the past year, the City's Parks Maintenance Section has upgraded some lower areas of unpaved trail that continue to the Minnesota River. Additional gravel surfacing was added for a safer and more enjoyable path.



LYLE BERG BRIDGE OPENS KEY LINK TO AMERICAN BOULEVARD COMPLETED

AN IMPORTANT LINK CONNECTING EAST and west American Boulevard, the parallel arterial to I-494, is now complete. A ribbon-cutting ceremony on September 12 celebrated the completion of the Lyle Berg Bridge over I-35W.

The City of Bloomington has pursued the construction of the bridge for decades. The project was almost constructed in 1985, but the Minnesota Department of Transportation put the project on hold to ensure that the bridge would accommodate eventual improvements to I-35W and I-494. Bloomington Deputy Director of Public Works Jim Gates said the parallel arterial concept has definitively shown its need as traffic volumes and congestion increase in the third-largest employment corridor in Minnesota.

American Boulevard will provide Bloomington residents, workers and visitors with an alternative way to travel across the community and will also help ease congestion on I-494. Bloomington has been planning for the parallel route for more than 36 years. The bridge is named after retired Bloomington Traffic and Transportation Engineer Lyle Berg. Berg, who served the City from 1964 - 2000, was a champion of American Boulevard from the beginning.

"Lyle's vision for this important roadway system lead to the development of American Boulevard," Public Works Director Charles Honchell said. "Berg's foresight, leadership and tenacity made the concept a reality."

"Early on, it was very apparent for Bloomington, and for the region, that there should be a parallel route to I-494," Berg said. "Now and in the future, particularly as development and density increases with more people working and shopping,



American Boulevard will be a great advantage for people to get to and from their destinations."

The 387-foot bridge includes two westbound and two eastbound lanes, a concrete median, and eight-foot wide bike and pedestrian paths in each direction. Improvements beyond the bridge will also include protected left turn lanes.

"The bridge will serve our community for three decades in a highly satisfactory manner," Berg said. "It is a good design that could be modified to accommodate future traffic as necessary."

The \$12.5 million bridge was completed in one year and within budget. A federal grant funded 80 percent of construction. The City of Bloomington and the Minnesota Department of Transportation

also supported the project. Learn more about American Boulevard and other street construction projects on the City's Web site, www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Construction projects.

Mayor Gene Winstead and retired Traffic and Transportation Engineer Lyle Berg perform the honors at the Lyle Berg Bridge Ribbon-Cutting.

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The *Briefing*, published bimonthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to our residents and businesses. Direct comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer disk to Communications Administrator Diann Kirby, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington MN 55431-3027; PH 952-563-8818; TTY 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715;E-MAIL dkirby@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

Web site: www.ci.bloomington.mn.us

BLOOMINGTON CITY COUNCIL



Mayor
Gene Winstead
952-888-1258(h)
gwinstead@ci.bloomington.mn.us

Councilmember At Large
Dave Abrams
952-833-0505(h)
dabrams@ci.bloomington.mn.us



Councilmember At Large
Amy Grady
952-884-6502 (h)
agrady@ci.bloomington.mn.us

Councilmember District I
Steve Peterson
952-884-3262(h)
speterson@ci.bloomington.mn.us



Councilmember District II
Heather Harden
952-835-5919(h)
hharden@ci.bloomington.mn.us

Councilmember District III
Steve Elkins
612-578-2103(c)
selkins@ci.bloomington.mn.us



Councilmember District IV
Vern Wilcox
952-854-1425(h)
vwilcox@ci.bloomington.mn.us

Elected officials presented for informational purposes.

COUNCILMEMBERS
council@ci.bloomington.mn.us

CITY MANAGER
Mark Bernhardsen 952-563-8780
citymanager@ci.bloomington.mn.us

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
Clark Arneson 952-563-8921
carneson@ci.bloomington.mn.us

DIRECTORS
Larry Lee, *Community Development* 952-563-8947
llee@ci.bloomington.mn.us
James Truax, *Community Services* 952-563-8717
communityservices@ci.bloomington.mn.us
Lori Economy-Scholler, *Finance* 952-563-8791
finance@ci.bloomington.mn.us
Ulie Seal, *Fire* 952-881-4062
fire@ci.bloomington.mn.us
Kent Michaelson, *Human Resources* 952-563-4898
kmichaelson@ci.bloomington.mn.us
David Ornstein, *Legal* 952-563-8753
legal@ci.bloomington.mn.us
John Laux, *Police* 952-563-8701
police@ci.bloomington.mn.us
Charles Honchell, *Public Works* 952-563-8731
publicworks@ci.bloomington.mn.us

The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status or status with regard to public assistance in employment or the provision of services. The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as required by Section 35.107 of the U.S. Department of Justice Regulations, and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as mandated by Section 8.53 of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Regulations. For information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027; phone: 952-563-8733; TTY: 952-563-8740.

TESTIMONIALS FROM SATISFIED CUSTOMERS
A GAUGE OF EXCELLENT CUSTOMER SERVICE

By Mayor Gene Winstead

SOMETIMES THE MEASURE OF GOOD customer service comes from unexpected places, such as a recent compliment from a resident of Los Angeles, whose mother lives in Bloomington. When he visits, he occasionally calls the City to report an issue that requires attention: a damaged street sign, a dead animal or a broken water meter.

“I am so impressed with the quick and efficient customer service provided by the City of Bloomington,” the caller said. “I’m comforted in knowing that my mother is living in a city that is on top of things and responds to its residents’ calls and concerns so quickly.”

In business and in public service, I have always championed the importance of excellent customer

service. We all pay taxes to support essential and quality-of-life government services with the expectation that we will receive them in a timely manner.

City staff and residents do an outstanding job in taking care of our community, and it shows. Jon Oleson, who was looking for a place closer to his wife’s job, relocated to Bloomington two years ago without doing much research on other cities. He said he was pleasantly surprised to discover that he chose a well-run city with articulate leaders, neighborhoods with well-kept homes and amenities close to home.

“We didn’t really investigate Bloomington before we moved,” Oleson said. “But we are glad its citizens and employees have been vigilant in making it a good place to live.”

Bloomington stands out because it is a mature city with a proven system in place and employees who are genuinely interested in serving its citizens. A 92-year-old resident, who lives alone, experienced a power outage at her home in July. She was frightened and could see that the rest of the neighborhood had light.

“When I called 911, a very kind and helpful gentleman answered. Soon after, Officer Schwartz was at my door,” she said. “After checking inside and outside of my house, he called the power company. He was professional, courteous and especially comforting, and promised to check my house and



Professional, courteous and caring –
Bloomington Police protect and serve our
community – both young and old.

watch my neighborhood during his shift. The next night, when it was extremely hot, Officer Schwartz showed up at my door and wanted to know if I was cool and had air conditioning! I am thankful for such kindness.”

Testimonials from satisfied customers are a good measure of excellent customer service. The compliments highlight the people who listen to concerns, are helpful, handle complaints, respond in a timely manner and take that extra step – performances that demonstrate local government at its best.

City staff uses a five-year planning model that considers both short-term and future needs of our community to recommend a preliminary levy.

The Truth in Taxation Hearing is
Monday, December 5, at 6 p.m. in
the Council Chambers.

2006 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

COUNCIL APPROVES PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND LEVY

THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED A preliminary general operating fund budget of \$46,996,084, a 4.27 percent increase from the 2005 budget of \$45,069,480.

The monthly increase for City services to a Bloomington resident with a median-value home of \$231,200 would be \$2.92 in 2006 for a monthly total of \$60 per month. The median-valued home averaged an 8 percent increase in market value in 2005, up \$16,800 from 2004. The overall tax capacity rate for the City will decrease for 2006.

The monthly increase resulted from the approval of a preliminary levy of \$38,168,336 for 2006, a 5.75 percent increase from 2005, in part, to anticipate the loss of market value credit and local government aid from the state in 2006. The Council increased the levy to help offset these losses.

The preliminary levy can be reduced, but not increased, before final adoption in December. If the 2006 levy increase is approved, the average annual increase in the City’s levy from 1994 - 2006 will be 3.17 percent.

MOTORIZED SCOOTERS, SKATEBOARDS, BIKES AND GO-CARTS

ORDINANCE CHANGE IN SYNC WITH NEW LAW

UNDER A NEW STATE LAW, MOTORIZED scooters may now be operated on local streets. The City Council approved an ordinance change in August to reflect the new law.

The ordinance requires that recreational vehicle operators must travel on the right side of the roadway and walk the vehicle across the street to

make a left turn. Operators ages 12 - 17 must wear helmets.

The City ordinance continues to prohibit the use of motorized scooters and skateboards, go-carts and mini bikes on sidewalks, pedestrian trails or walkways, school property, parks and playgrounds. These vehicles can be used on private property with the owner’s permission.

Motorized wheelchairs used for mobility by disabled persons are not restricted.

For more information, call Commander Paul McCullough at 952-563-8834.



RUNWAY PROTECTION ZONE

CLEARING THE WAY FOR THE NEW RUNWAY



Photo by Bordner Aerials

WHY ALL THE CONSTRUCTION AT 24TH Avenue and American Boulevard? The 36.6-acre parcel, owned by the Metropolitan Airports Commission, is being cleared to comply with Federal Aviation Administration design and land use requirements for the new airport runway scheduled to open on October 25. Known as the Runway Protection Zone, the area's primary function is to protect people and property on the ground. When completed, the area will be closed to public access. Structures within the Runway Protection Zone will be limited to air navigation lighting standards and equipment.

NEW RUNWAY OPENS AT MSP IN OCTOBER

INTERVIEW WITH AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL OPERATIONS MANAGER

A NEW RUNWAY UNDER CONSTRUCTION will increase the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport's (MSP) operational capacity by approximately 25 percent, helping to reduce congestion and delays at the airport. Part of a \$3.1 billion expansion plan developed by the Metropolitan Airports Commission

(MAC), the runway is scheduled to open October 25.

When the runway is being used, increased aircraft noise will impact Bloomington residents who currently experience little or no aircraft noise. MAC will hold informational meetings to answer resident questions about the

runway's use and noise on **Monday, November 14**, and **Tuesday, November 22, at 6:30 p.m.**, at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road.

Call MAC's Noise Complaint and Information Line at 612-726-9411 or visit www.macnoise.com for information.

STATE-OF-THE-SCIENCE

ORTHOPAEDIC CENTER

PATIENT CARE, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH UNDER ONE ROOF



TRIA, A ONE-STOP SHOP FOR orthopaedic care, surgery, research and education, opened in Bloomington in June. According to owners, the \$60 million, 100,000 square-foot facility is the nation's most technologically advanced comprehensive center for orthopaedic medical care.

The center has 135 employees and 23 physicians, who are expected to perform 7,000 orthopaedic surgeries and conduct 37,000 clinic visits during their first year. Mary Johnson, President and Chief Operating Officer, said service is TRIA's motto in representing the best in orthopaedic care.

"Our three-pronged approach is patient care, orthopaedic education and surgical research all within one facility," Johnson said. "We provide care for professional athletes, but anyone can come here."

Created through a partnership of Park Nicollet Health Services, the University of Minnesota Physicians and the Orthopaedic Center, a private practice, TRIA's physicians serve the athletes of the Minnesota Twins, Vikings, Timberwolves, Lynx, Wild, and University of Minnesota men's and women's teams, in addition to weekend athletes. TRIA offers outpatient surgery, physical therapy, orthotics, prosthetics and prescription delivery.

A paperless and filmless facility, TRIA does not print MRIs and x-rays, or keep records on paper. According to Johnson, digital technology helps increase the speed of care, allowing doctors and nurses to focus more on the patient.

TRIA is located at 8100 Northland Drive at the intersection of I-494 and France Avenue. For more information, call 952-831-8742 or visit www.tria.com.



Surgery rooms are linked via video feed to anywhere in TRIA's facility. Students or studying physicians can watch surgery remotely and communicate with the doctors to learn new techniques.

How long have you been with the Minneapolis Air Traffic Control Tower?

I came to Minneapolis Tower in 1982 after spending four years as an air traffic controller with the United States Air Force. I began working with MAC and the communities on noise abatement issues in 1991 as a staff specialist.

Many people ask why ATCT can't distribute flights more equitably on a day-to-day basis. For instance, there are times when aircraft depart over the same areas for weeks at a time. Can you explain why this happens?

The driving factors for how aircraft operate at an airport are wind and weather conditions. Aircraft land and take off into the wind, which determines what runways will be used. Air traffic separation requirements and procedures provide the guidelines as to where aircraft will fly. Having strict rules that are both clear and concise is what allows so many aircraft to safely operate in and out of a busy airport such as MSP.



We often hear concerns about planes flying too low. How does ATCT monitor an aircraft's altitude?

A number of systems are in place to ensure aircraft are flying at a safe altitude. An aircraft's altitude is constantly displayed on the air traffic controller's radar display and the controller is required to advise the pilot if the aircraft is below an acceptable altitude for safety.

Are the controllers aware of and sensitive to the noise concerns of people living around MSP?

The controllers at MSP are well aware of both the communities' noise concerns and also of their own requirements to comply with agreed-upon noise abatement procedures. MAC's evaluations on compliance with noise abatement procedures are required reading material. I also personally summarize my meetings with the various communities and advise the controllers of the public's concerns. Once a noise abatement procedure has made it to the implementation phase, it becomes a "contract" or an "agreement" that we have made with the public. We take these procedures very seriously.

Interview excerpts are from MAC's July 2005 MSP Noise newsletter.

WHERE THE ACTION IS EVENTS TO ADD QUALITY TO YOUR LIFE

DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AND AWARENESS MONTH OCTOBER JOB TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

HUMAN SERVICES CELEBRATES DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AND AWARENESS MONTH WITH activities and events in October. For a listing of the activities or for more information, visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: DEAM, or call 952-563-4873.

CATCH THE WELLNESS WAVE NATURAL APPROACHES TO HEALTH

THIS FREE HEALTHY LIVING EVENT, FEATURING NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED SPEAKERS, fitness classes and health screenings, is **Saturday, October 8**, at Northwestern Health Sciences University, 2501 W. 84th St. For more information, call 952-888-4777, ext. 169.

SENIOR PROGRAM'S FALL AFTERNOON DANCE ALL AGES ARE INVITED

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE BLOOMINGTON SENIOR PROGRAM'S ANNUAL FALL dance to be held on **Monday, October 24, 1 - 3 p.m.**, at the Marian Knights of Columbus, 1114 American Blvd. W. Music will be provided by the Jolly Nobles. Cost is a \$3 donation, payable at the door. For more information, call 952-563-4949.

BLOOMINGTON SISTER CITY ORGANIZATION (BSCO) MIDDLE SCHOOL DELEGATION TO VISIT THIS FALL



A MIDDLE SCHOOL DELEGATION FROM Izumi City, JAPAN WILL VISIT BLOOMINGTON **October 27 - November 2**. Activities will include tours of Bloomington Civic Plaza, the Mall of America and the Minnesota State Capital. To learn more, call 952-563-8713 (952-563-8740 TTY) or visit www.bloomington-izumi.org.

MULTICULTURAL WORKSHOP THIS NOVEMBER BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION CO-SPONSORS EVENT

THE MULTICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER AND THE BLOOMINGTON HUMAN Rights Commission present "Somalis in the American Workplace – Accommodation, Culture, Ritual and Tradition on **Wednesday, November 16, 1 - 4:30 p.m.**, at Bloomington Civic Plaza. For more information or to register, call at 952-881-6090.

PENN LAKE LIBRARY SPECIAL EVENT HARVEST STORIES AND TEA PROGRAM

BRING YOUR CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN AND FRIENDS TO A TEA AND STORYTIME event on **Saturday, November 12, 10:30 a.m.**, at the Penn Lake Library, 8800 Penn Ave. S. This free program is sponsored by Human Services and the Friends of Penn Lake Library. For more information, call 952-847-5800.

GET THE ASSISTANCE YOU NEED

SUPPORT GROUPS AVAILABLE AT CREEKSIDE

HUMAN SERVICES SUPPORTS AND assists a variety of support groups that meet at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave. S.

Multiple Sclerosis Support Group helps people with Multiple Sclerosis as well as their family members and caregivers. The National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Minnesota Chapter co-sponsors this group. Meetings are the **first Wednesdays, September - December and February - June, 7 - 8:30 p.m.** For more information, call 952-563-4949.

Low Vision Support Group assists those with vision loss and their family members. Vision Loss Resources co-sponsors this group. Meetings are the **third Fridays, September - May, 10 - 11:30 a.m.** For more information, call 612-871-2222.



Grandparent Connection is for grandparents who provide primary care for their grandchildren. Childcare is provided with advance reservation. Lutheran Social Services co-sponsors this group. Meetings are the **third Thursdays, September - June, 6:30 - 8 p.m.** For more information, call 612-879-5351.



AWARD-WINNING PUBLICATIONS CITY RECEIVES NATIONAL HONORS

THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON WAS recently honored with two first-place awards in a national communications competition. The City-County Communications and Marketing Association (3CMA) presented its prestigious "Savvy Awards" to Bloomington at its August conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

The City's annual report – *Corporate Report to the Community 2004* – captured a first place Savvy Award. Judges praised the financial report as "easy to read" and called it a "cost-effective way to communicate."

The City's employee newsletter, *the Insider*, also earned a first place Savvy Award. "Outstanding publication," said the judges. "Excellent layout with great use of pictures."

Bloomington also picked up a third place Award of Excellence for the newsletter *Bloomington Briefing*. The judges said, "We loved the great design, use of photos and short, informative articles. 'Earth Action Heroes' is a clever way to recognize citizens and get people involved. Great publication."

To view the *Corporate Report to the Community 2004* and past issues of the *Bloomington Briefing*, visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us keywords: Corporate Report 2004 or Briefing. For more information, call Diann Kirby, Communications Administrator, at 952-563-8818.

THINK DRINKING IS A RITE OF PASSAGE?



MOST (78 PERCENT) BLOOMINGTON NINTH graders report they haven't had any alcoholic beverages in the last 30 days.* Talk to your kids about not wanting them to drink. They're listening.

**TOGETHER WE STAND, PROMOTING
HEALTHY YOUTH AND COMMUNITIES.**



*2004 Minnesota Student Survey

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY



Minnesota Historical Society

AERO INN – 1935

A POPULAR BLOOMINGTON LANDMARK, the Aero Inn got its start in Richfield. Standing in the midst of farmland at 66th Street and 34th Avenue, the inn was a supper club in the 1930s that featured dancing and Sunday chicken dinners. When the airport expanded in the early 1940s, the Aero Inn moved to 2731 E. 78th Street. In 1947, Everett McClay VFW Post 1296 purchased the inn and used it as their post until the 1990s. The VFW Post moved to 311 W. 84th St. to accommodate the airport's new runway expansion.

ACTIVE SENIOR HITS THE ROAD TRAVELS BLOOMINGTON STREET BY STREET

AGE IS NO BARRIER TO EILEEN HAMILTON who likes a challenge. Inspired by Francine Corcoran, the 55-year-old who recently walked all of Minneapolis’ streets, Hamilton, 81, thought, “I’ll try that for Bloomington.”

Her trek began on Bloomington’s east side last March. Keeping track of her progress with a black marker on a city map, Hamilton chose random paths and covered four to five miles per day. In just three months, she ended on the city’s

west side, walking a total of 412.5 miles that included all city and county streets. Hamilton said what she enjoyed most about traveling the city street by street was the thrill of discovering what was around the next block.

“There are many great parks, nice playgrounds, beautiful streets and well-maintained homes,” she said. “I feel like I know Bloomington so much better.”

Hamilton clocks an impressive 15-minute mile and walks two to three miles as part of her daily routine. She said she walks because she feels so good afterward.

“I don’t think about my age because I don’t feel it,” she said. “Getting out and moving also keeps a person’s mind active.”



Eileen Hamilton walked 412.5 miles of Bloomington streets, the equivalent of walking to Chicago.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT BUILDS COMMUNITY DONATIONS TO FOOD SHELF SET RECORD

PARTICIPATION IN THE 22ND ANNUAL National Night Out crime, drug and violence prevention program reached an all-time high with 336 registered neighborhood parties. During the August event, a record 15,846 pounds of food and nearly \$700 were collected for Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People (VEAP).

“We had a phenomenal response to the request for food shelf donations at National Night Out,” said Karin Meier, VEAP’s Director of Development. “It was not only the quantity of the donations that excited us, but the quality was excellent, too.”

The National Night Out event demonstrates what can be accomplished through “neighbors helping neighbors,” according to Bloomington Police Chief John Laux.

“Giving to the food shelf is a way to help those less fortunate,” Laux said. “I am really pleased that we are able to take a very successful event to build neighborhood and community connections, and extend that to VEAP.”

For more information on National Night Out, call 952-563-8808. To contact VEAP, call 952-888-9616.

Hamilton, who gave up rollerblading at age 80, said her advice for people who say “I wish I could do that” is to just get out there and do it.

Hamilton and husband Harold (who’s 82 and long-blade skates twice a week) raised six children and have been Bloomington residents since 1952.

Do you have an interesting story about a Bloomington resident? Let us know. Call Diann Kirby at 952-563-8818 or e-mail dkirby@ci.bloomington.mn.us.



THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT GEARS UP FOR FAMILY FUN THIS FALL

FALL FUN AWAITS THE whole family at Hyland Lake Park Reserve at 8737 E. Bush Lake Road. For reservations or more information call 763-559-6700, unless otherwise noted.

CHAIR LIFT RIDES

Experience a spectacular view of the fall colors and nature at sunset as you ride a chair lift **Friday, October 7, 5 - 9 p.m.** and **Saturday, October 8, 4 - 9 p.m.** at Hyland Ski and Snowboard Area. Warm up by a campfire, look through a telescope, meet a live raptor and enjoy a walk down an illuminated trail. Cost is \$5, ages 3 and older.



SKI LESSONS

Extensive lesson programs at Hyland’s Ski and Snowboard School for all ages and abilities are taught by some of the Midwest’s finest ski and snowboard instructors. Pre-registration begins **Saturday, October 22.** For a complete schedule, visit www.hylandski.com.

SKI SWAP

If you need ski or snowboard equipment, or want to get rid of what you already have, don’t miss the annual Ski Swap, **Friday - Saturday, October 14 - 16** at Hyland Chalet. For more information, call 952-930-9422 or visit www.teamgilboa.com.

HAUNTED HALLOWEEN ADVENTURES

Celebrate Halloween, **Saturday, October 29, 5 - 9 p.m.** Trick-or-treat on a not-so-scary animal puppet trail or creep along a haunted trail for a scary good time. Meet live animals, play games, enjoy storytelling, and warmup by a campfire. Come in costume and bring a bag for goodies. For reservations, call 763-559-6700. Cost is \$8, ages 3 and older.



Bloomington SWAT team on patrol in New Orleans.

HURRICANE KATRINA RECOVERY EFFORTS BLOOMINGTON RESPONDS

A COALITION OF NEARLY 90 LAW enforcement officers from the metropolitan area left on September 13 for a two-week deployment to New Orleans to assist in the Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. Bloomington joined Minneapolis, St. Paul and Ramsey County in response to the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) request for state help.

Bloomington sent 21 current and recently retired SWAT team members who have the tactical training and equipment to handle any situation. Not wanting to add to the problem in New Orleans, the team was completely self-sufficient, providing their own food, water and housing.

Commander Dave Olmstead, who headed the Bloomington team, said the Minnesota contingent was on standby round-the-clock to assist the New Orleans SWAT team. Working conditions were challenging as they battled limited radio communication and heat indexes of 105 degrees.

“Every day it was an adventure as we patrolled the different areas of New Orleans,” Olmstead said. “In the city’s Ninth District, where one levy was breached, there was incredible devastation. It was as if a bomb went off and everything was covered in mud.”

With 21 officers in New Orleans, the rest of Bloomington’s Police force filled in with overtime so that the level of service provided to residents was maintained.

“It’s wonderful that we could help out for two weeks, but we could not sustain that level for the long term,” said Bloomington Police Chief John Laux. “The good news is that the City will be completely reimbursed by FEMA for all expenses related to the trip, including overtime for officers covering Bloomington shifts.”

Laux said he was touched by his officers’ quick and overwhelming response to help out Americans in need.

“My law enforcement career has spanned five decades and I have never been prouder of any organization,” Laux said. “These officers responded so quickly and readily, stepping forward and saying, ‘If they need us, we will go.’”



Bloomington SWAT team members.



CLEANING OUT THE GARAGE THIS FALL? DISPOSE OF HAZARDOUS WASTE PROPERLY

DO YOU HAVE LEFTOVER GAS OR OIL from mowing, or half-empty cans of paint or solvents used on home improvement projects? If you can't reuse them, take them to the Hennepin County Problem Waste and Recycling Facility, 1400 W. 96th St. These and other household chemicals are hazardous waste and cannot be disposed of in the trash. Other items accepted at the facility include:

- Tires and batteries.
- Electronic goods: TVs, computers and stereos.
- Non-refillable propane/butane cylinders.
- Recyclable materials: Bottles, cans and paper.
- Appliances.

Facility hours are **Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Wednesdays, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., and Saturdays, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.** For more information, call 612-348-3777.



TOO MUCH PAPER AT WORK? EASY WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR CONSUMPTION

PAPER IS COSTLY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT and for your business. Americans throw away about 10,000 sheets of paper per person each year – enough paper to build a 12-foot high wall stretching from New York to San Francisco. Implement the following simple tips to help save money, time and natural resources.

- Print only the pages you need.
- Make double-sided copies.
- Set your computer to two-sided printing.
- Print more words on each page by reducing margins or using an efficient font such as Times New Roman.
- Reduce unsolicited mail to your business. Call 800-333-0505 or e-mail custserv@dnb.com to remove your company's address from mailing lists.

For more information, visit the Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance at www.moea.state.mn.us.

CHOOSE TO REUSE WEEK IN HENNEPIN COUNTY DON'T TOSS YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS – DONATE THEM

EACH YEAR IN HENNEPIN COUNTY, 32 MILLION POUNDS OF usable clothing and household goods are thrown away despite the numerous reuse opportunities provided by repair, second-hand and consignment businesses, or donations to charities.



In an effort to encourage more reuse, Hennepin County will host the fourth annual

Choose to Reuse Week, October 15 - 22. This year's program includes:

- **Choose to Reuse discounts.** More than 30 businesses and organizations, including Arc's Value Village, Bridging, Inc., Goodwill Stores, Society of St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Stores, Turn Style Consignment, Nu Look Consignment and Once Upon A Child (St. Louis Park), The Reuse Center and many more, will offer special discounts.

- **Thrift Crawl.** Residents will receive a map of participating thrift and consignment shops in Hennepin County. Visit three or more stores and be eligible to win thrift shop gift certificates and a \$250 gift certificate for a used bike.
- **Scrap Art.** A "trash to treasure" art activity at Hennepin County Libraries will show children how to apply their imagination and creativity in reusing scrap material.



For information, call 612-348-3777 or visit Hennepin County Environmental Services at www.hennepin.us, keywords: Choose to Reuse.

REUSE TIPS FOR REDUCING WASTE AND SAVING MONEY

What can you do to help reduce waste, improve the community and potentially save money? Try the following reuse ideas:

Donate what you no longer need. Donating usable clothing and household goods to charitable organizations is a great way to help your community.

Avoid disposables. They may be convenient, but they cost more and generate waste.

Buy well. Buy once. Well-designed and well-constructed products last longer, and usually save you money, even if they cost more initially.

Do your homework. Research before you buy and avoid impulse purchases.

Share your stuff. Sharing with neighbors and friends can save money and build relationships in your community.

Earth Action Heroes protect the earth. Whether it's saving energy or guarding Bloomington's precious natural resources, these individuals are making a difference. Here are your neighbors in action ...

EARTH ACTION HERO THE CABIN CRUSADER

MARCY NOLTE KNOWS THAT ALTHOUGH she may not be able to change the world, she can make a difference where she lives and works. As an employee for a Twin Cities-based airline, Nolte is taking her concern for the environment to new heights.

Nolte, a flight attendant for Sun Country Airlines, recycled newspapers, cans and bottles at home, but wondered if she could do more to recycle at work. She made phone calls to local and state resources to find out how to start a recycling program with the flight attendants.

She gathered her research and presented the information to Sun Country's In-flight Manager Joan Smith, who approved. In August 2004, the recycling program took off.

Nolte drafted motivational handouts and demonstrated the recycling program to flight attendants. She faced some challenges including airport rules and regulations, but developed a partnership with Mark Wacek from the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC). Wacek, who works in Environmental Affairs, said MAC encourages and assists tenants with their recycling.

"Sun Country evaluated their situation and felt they could do more," Wacek said. "Marcy kick-started the operation at the airline and MAC was ready to handle their additional recycling efforts."

One year later, recycling is part of flight attendants' manual and procedures for Sun Country. Flight attendants collect cans and papers during flights, putting them into separate bags for recycling.



When it comes to making a difference, the sky's the limit for flight attendant Marcy Nolte and the cleaning crew at Sun Country Airlines.

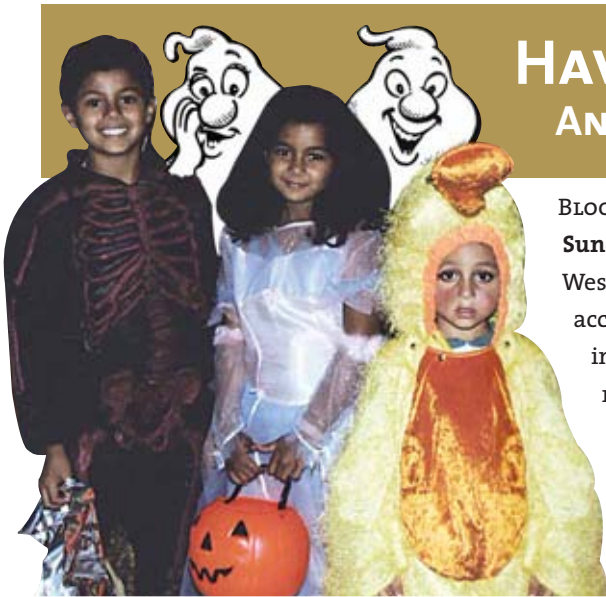


"Sun Country is doing a great job and has made a noticeable difference in recycling at the Humphrey Terminal," Wacek said.

Nolte credits Sun Country Airlines for supporting the recycling program. The flight attendants and cleaners continue to recycle, helping to make the program a huge success.

What motivates Nolte? She said it's her mother who taught her to have a profound appreciation for natural resources.

"I was raised that this is the earth – you give more than you take from it," Nolte said. "With all of the places we fly to, I see how beautiful the world is and realize how important it is to keep it that way."



HAVE A SPOOKY GOOD TIME ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARTY

BLOOMINGTON'S ANNUAL CITYWIDE HALLOWEEN PARTY WILL TAKE PLACE ON **Sunday, October 31, 6 to 8 p.m.**, at Northwestern Health Sciences University, West 84th Street and Penn Avenue South. Pre-schoolers through fourth graders, accompanied by an adult, are invited to this fun and safe event. Activities include "Trick-or-Treat Alley," games, prizes, coloring contest awards and much more. Admission is free, but please bring a non-perishable food item for the VEAP Food Shelf.

The event is sponsored by the City of Bloomington, Bloomington Breakfast Optimist Club and Northwestern Health Sciences University.

The coloring contest and more information are available on the City's Web site, www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Halloween.

AR&LE

THE ADAPTIVE RECREATION AND Learning Exchange offers fun programs and informative classes for individuals with disabilities living in the southern metropolitan area. AR&LE is sponsored by the cities of Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina and Richfield, and local Community Education Adults with Disabilities programs. AR&LE's quarterly catalog details its activities. For more information, call Parks and Recreation.



GALAXY YOUTH CENTERS

GALAXY YOUTH CENTERS ARE LOCATED IN THREE MIDDLE SCHOOLS: OAK GROVE, 1300 W. 106th St.; Olson, 4551 W. 102nd St.; and Valley View, 8900 Portland Ave.

The centers, a joint effort of Bloomington Schools and the City of Bloomington, provide a safe, nurturing environment for youth, grades six to eight. Activities include music, foosball, ping-pong, billiards, video games, arts and crafts, service projects and sports. For more information, call 952-681-6107.

CENTER FOR THE ARTS

LOCATED IN BLOOMINGTON CIVIC PLAZA AT THE CORNER OF WEST 98TH STREET AND OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD, THE CENTER FOR THE Arts is a first-class facility housing eight arts organizations. For facility information, call 952-563-8889. For exhibit information and events, call 952-563-8567 or visit the City's Web site, www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Calendar.

SCHNEIDER THEATER

THURSDAY MUSICAL

The 2005-06 Thursday Morning Artist Series season begins on **Thursday, October 6, 10:30 a.m.** Performances are twice monthly. Tickets are \$10 at the door. Season tickets include 16 concerts for \$60; \$50 seniors, age 65 and older. For more information, call 612-333-0313 or visit www.thursdaymusical.com.

BLOOMINGTON ART CENTER THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW

Washington Irving's beloved Gothic tale will be performed by the Gallery Theater Company **Thursdays - Saturdays, October 6 - 23, 7:30 p.m.**, and **Sundays, 2 p.m.** Tickets are \$15 adults; \$12 seniors/students. For more information or reservations, call BAC at 952-563-8587.

BLOOMINGTON CIVIC THEATRE FOLLIES

Gathering at their old theater on the eve of its leveling, many generations of the Weisman Follies will pay homage to their theatrical roots. With music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, Follies is directed and choreographed by John Command. The show runs **November 3 - 27**. For information, call 952-563-8575 or visit www.bloomingtoncivictheatre.org.

MEDALIST CONCERT BAND

The Medalist Concert Band launches its 2005 holiday season on **Monday, November 28, 7:30 p.m.**, with a range of classic and contemporary holiday music. Advance tickets are \$10/adults; \$8/seniors and students or \$12/adults; \$10/seniors and students at the door. Children under 10 free admission. For reserved tickets, call 952-563-8575.

BLOOMINGTON ART CENTER (BAC)

Call 952-563-4777 for more information.

EXHIBITIONS

Hours:	M - F	8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
	Sa	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
	Su	1 p.m. - 10 p.m.

INEZ GREENBERG GALLERY

Landscapes, Light & Surfaces, featuring artists Fred Annes, Jon Martin Hicks and Cameron Zebrun, runs **October 7 - November 11**. The opening reception will be Friday, October 7, 6 - 8 p.m.

Kaleidoscope, featuring Steve Hemingway and Mary Lingen, runs **November 18 - December 23**. The opening reception will be Friday, November 18, 6 - 8 p.m.

CONTACT PARKS AND RECREATION AT 952-563-8877 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE ACTIVITIES.

TENNIS LESSONS

When:	Thursdays, October 20 - December 1.
Times:	<i>Beginner</i> 6:30-7:30 p.m. <i>Intermediate</i> 7:30-8:30 p.m.
Where:	Northwest Athletic Club. 1001 W 98th St.
Cost:	\$53.

MEN'S BASKETBALL LEAGUE

When:	Starts November 29.
	<i>Men's C</i> Tuesdays.
	<i>Men's D</i> Wednesdays.
	<i>Men's C</i> Thursdays.
	<i>Men's D</i> Sundays.
Cost:	\$510 per team.
Deadline:	November 4.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL LEAGUE

When:	Mondays, beginning November 28.
Where:	Bloomington Armory, 3300 W. 98th St.
Cost:	\$510 per team.
Deadline:	November 4.

SENIOR VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

THE BORN AGAIN JOCKS VOLLEYBALL League welcomes men, 55 years and over, with all levels of playing ability. Call Dick Wortman at 952-888-1814.

When:	Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, October 10 - April 28.
Time:	Warm-up 8:45 a.m. Games 9 a.m.
Where:	Jefferson High School Activity Center, 102nd St. and France Ave. S.

CALLING ALL SINGERS



BLOOMINGTON CHORALE

Calling all singers for Handel's Messiah performances on **December 11 and 18**. Rehearsals are currently held on **Mondays, 7 - 9:30 p.m.** in the Center for the Arts Rehearsal Room. For more information, call 952-563-8582.

ATRIUM GALLERY

Wishful Thinking, featuring artist Jennifer Davis, runs **September 22 - November 4**.

Art Installation, featuring artist Liz Miller, runs **November 10 - December 23**.



the failure of an eloquent defense, mixed media installation by Liz Miller.

SPECIAL EVENTS

BAC's Annual Fundraiser will be held **Friday, November 4, 6 p.m.**, at the Minnesota Valley Country Club, 6800 Auto Club Road. Enjoy dinner, silent and live auctions, games and entertainment. Tickets are \$60 per person. For reservations, call 952-563-8587.

Pottery, glass, jewelry, artwork and more will be available at the **Holiday Art Sale on Thursday, November 17, 4 - 10 p.m., Friday - Saturday, November 18 - 19, 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. and Sunday, November 20, 1 - 4 p.m.** in the Schneider Theater Lobby.



2005 GENERAL ELECTION

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8
POLLS OPEN 7 A.M. TO 8 P.M.

ON THE BALLOT:

City offices

- Councilmember at Large.
- Council Member District I.
- Council Member District II.

School District offices

- School Board Members (4) – All precincts.

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT

THIS FALL YOU WILL HAVE THE opportunity to exercise your right to vote for City and school district offices. Prior to Election Day, verify your polling location. *See map.*

Who is eligible to vote?

- You may vote if you are:
- At least 18 years of age.
 - A U.S. citizen.
 - A Minnesota resident for at least 20 days before the election.
 - A convicted felon whose sentence has been completed or discharged.
 - Not under court-ordered guardianship in which court order revokes your right to vote.
 - Not legally incompetent.

Can I register to vote on Election Day?

If you are not currently registered to vote in Bloomington, you can register at your polling place on Election Day with the required proof of residence.

Can I vote by absentee ballot?

- Yes, if you are unable to vote on Election Day because you are:
- Away from home.
 - Disabled or ill.
 - An election judge serving in another precinct.
 - Unable to go to the polling place due to a religious holiday or beliefs.

Applications for absentee ballots are available at City Hall or on the City’s Web site, keyword: Voting.

VOTING ASSISTANCE

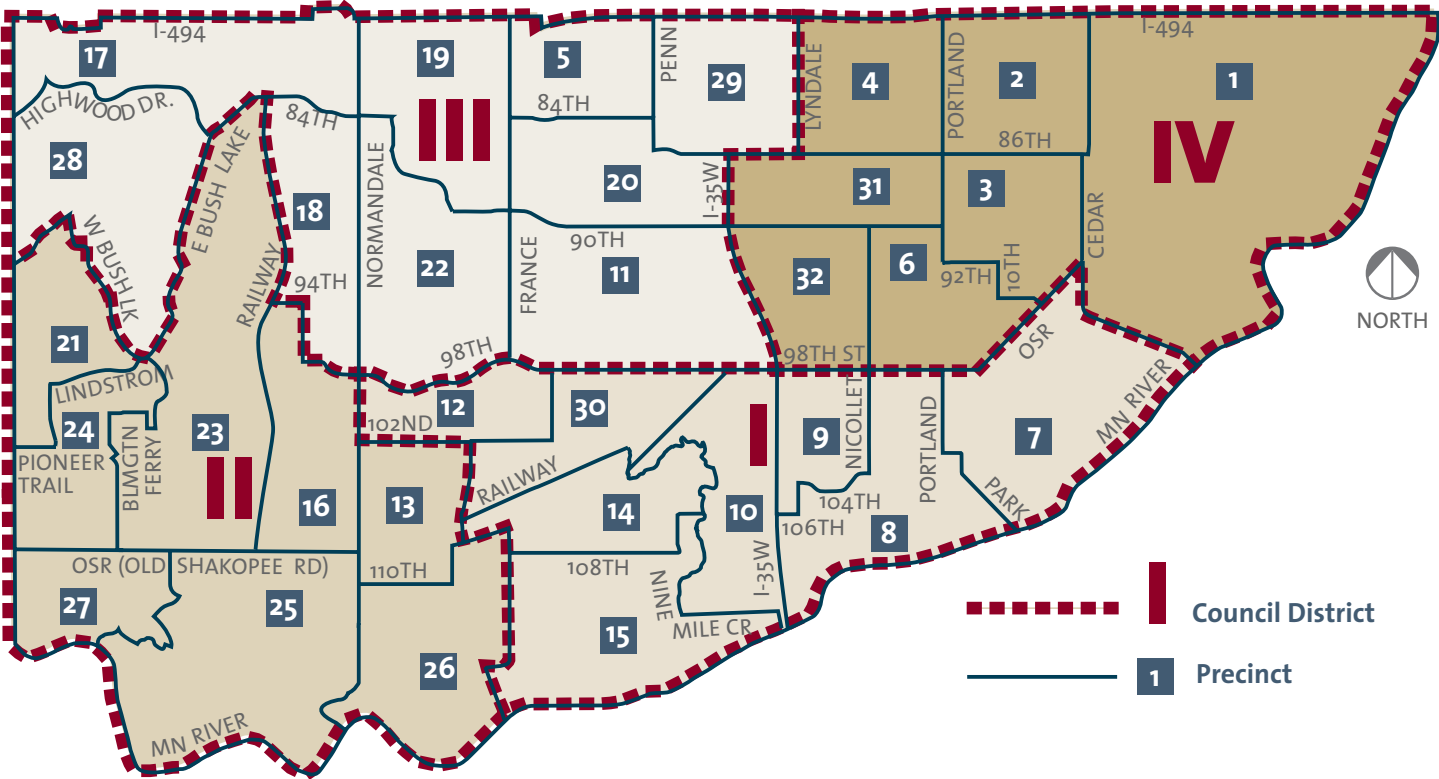
VOTING ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE AT the polling places to accommodate persons with disabilities. Ask the election judges if you need:

- Help to read or mark your ballot.
- A magnifying device.
- A chair at the voting booth.
- Curbside voting.

All polling places are accessible, with clearly marked doors and parking spaces.

For more information, visit the City’s Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Voting, or call Voter Registration at 952-563-8729.

2005 BLOOMINGTON POLLING PLACES

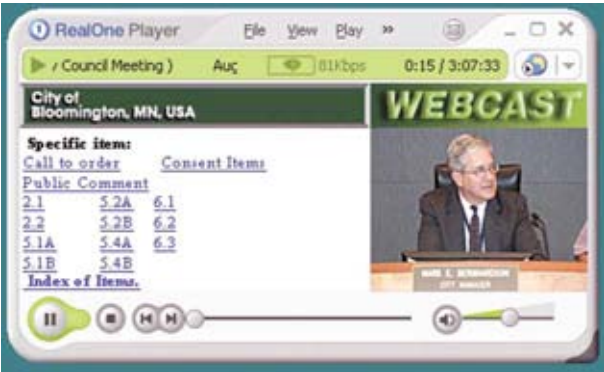


Precinct/Polling location	Entrance/Parking
1 MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge 3815 East 80th Street	West entrance Visitor lot (W)
2 Portland Avenue Methodist Church 8000 Portland Avenue South	Main entrance West lot
3 Cedar Valley Church 8600 Bloomington Avenue	North entrance North lot
4 Emmaus Lutheran Church 8443 2nd Avenue South	East entrance East lot
5 Southtown Baptist Church 2600 West 82nd Street	Main entrance (E) East lot
6 Bloomington Lutheran Church 9350 Portland Avenue South	Main entrance South lot
7 Indian Mounds Elementary School 9801 - 11th Avenue South	Main entrance (N) Northwest lot
8 Riverside Reformed Church 10201 Nicollet Avenue South	North entrance East lot
9 Nativity of Mary School 9901 East Bloomington Freeway	NE school entrance NE lot
10 St. Luke’s Lutheran Church 1701 West Old Shakopee Road	NE entrance North lot
11 Bloomington Christian Church 9000 West Bloomington Freeway	South entrance South lot
12 Crosspoint Church 9801 France Avenue South	Main entrance (E) East lot
13 Hubert Olson Elementary School 4501 West 102nd Street	Main entr. (NW) West lot – disabled use front drive
14 Mount Hope Lutheran Church 3601 West Old Shakopee Road	Main entrance (S) South lot
15 Westwood Elementary School 3701 West 108th Street	Main entrance (N) West lot
16 Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church 9920 Normandale Boulevard South	NE entrance (left doors) North lot

Precinct/Polling location	Entrance/Parking
17 Peace Lutheran Church 8600 East Bush Lake Road	Main entrance North lot
18 The Church of St. Edward’s 9401 Nesbitt Avenue South	SW entrance – upper level, SW lot
19 St. Stephen Lutheran Church 8400 France Avenue South	Main entrance (W) West lot
20 Washburn Elementary School 8401 Xerxes Avenue South	Main entrance NE lot
21 Sunrise Park Shelter 9401 Bloomington Ferry Road	Only entrance (N) North lot
22 Normandale Hills Elem. School 9501 Toledo Avenue South	Main entrance West lot
23 Community of the Cross Lutheran Church 10701 Bloomington Ferry Road	Main entrance (N) North lot
24 Bloomington Lutheran School 10600 Bloomington Ferry Road	Main entrance (S) S lot - disabled use East side
25 Bethany Missionary Church 6900 Auto Club Road	West entrance W and N lots
26 Southwood Center 4901 West 112th Street	West entrance West lot
27 Bethany Missionary Gymnasium 6900 Auto Club Road	Main entrance South lot
28 Bloomington Fire Station #6 8601 Lakeview Road	Main entrance N. lot and Street
29 Christ the King Lutheran Church 8600 Fremont Avenue South	SW entrance Southwest lot
30 Oak Grove Presbyterian Church 2200 West Old Shakopee Road	Main entrance Northeast lot
31 St. Bonaventure Catholic Church 901 East 90th Street (Social Hall)	Main entrance East lot
32 Oxboro Evangelical Free Church 9431 Nicollet Avenue South	North entrance North lot

CITY’S WEB SITE OFFERS UNIQUE SERVICE

VIEW CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS LIVE FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR HOME



WANT TO WATCH A CITY COUNCIL MEETING FROM YOUR HOME OR OFFICE? The City of Bloomington provides access to its Council meetings via streaming video webcasts that offer a way for you to virtually attend meetings. Bloomington was one of the first cities in Minnesota to video-stream City Council meetings and other cable television programs. The service began in 2000 and was developed in-house by existing staff, keeping setup costs low.

Check out webcasts for other City programming, including “Bloomington Today,” “Crime Time” and the “2005 State of the City” presentation on the City’s Web site. For more information, visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Webcasts.